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POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS

BARNETT, JAMES D. *The Operation of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Oregon.* Pp. xi, 295. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915.

This is an inclusive and thorough study of the operation of the state-wide initiative and referendum and recall in Oregon. It does not include a study of the use of the referendum in local affairs. In the appendix are given a good bibliography of constitutional and statutory provisions relating to these matters, the vote on matters initiated and referred, examples of the arguments for a measure on an initiative petition, newspaper advice on direct legislation, recommendations of the Taxpayers' League, a sample of advertisements, a recall petition and a recall ballot.

He who would like to get at the facts and the underlying sentiments upon which these so-called agencies of democracy are based can find them in no other book so ably and completely expressed as in this book by Dr. Barnett. Every phase of the subjects is discussed, such as the actual author of the proposed legislation, motives in legislation, the preparation of measures, the substance and form of measures, the making of petitions, the multiplicity of measures, campaign organization, organization of the vote, the relation of direct legislation to the executive and legislature, checks of the assembly upon direct legislation, the relation of direct legislation to the courts, to political parties and to stability in government. Such interesting matters are discussed in detail as the extent to which voters vote by title; the extent to which they tend to vote "no" on all measures when there are certain measures to which they are opposed; the extent to which votes are cast without an evident reading of the measure; the soundness and wholesomeness of direct legislation and the recall as agencies for securing responsiveness in government.

The author points out that "all the most radical measures were rejected by the voters" but concludes that "on the whole it appears that the voters have shown a decidedly progressive attitude in direct legislation." He believes that "the results of direct legislation at least compare favorably with those of representative legislation." The work is a highly creditable piece of research on a current topic.

CLYDE LYNDON KING.

University of Pennsylvania.

ELLIOTT, EDWARD. *American Government and Majority Rule.* Pp. vii, 175. Price, \$1.25. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1916.

The people of the United States have been hindered in the attainment of democracy by the form of government through which they have been compelled to act. This form is primarily a multiplicity of offices as represented in the long ballot, and in the check and balance system. Historical conditions and developments are submitted in order to sustain these principles.

Simplification of government is based on the twentieth century belief that there is no fear of government, and that democracy is not desirous of limiting the

sphere of governmental action. The changes needed in order to simplify our government are: (1) centralization of even greater powers, particularly in the state executives, including power to introduce and advocate bills in the legislature; (2) the present statutory and constitutional provisions requiring that a representative of the legislative body must reside in the district which he represents should be changed and a representative be allowed to stand for election in any district regardless of residence. "With law and custom changed so that a man might represent any district . . . the pork barrel as an institution of our political life would disappear; the representative would have more than local outlook and yet his sense of responsibility to the people would be enhanced." (3) The theory that election is sufficient to secure responsibility should be discarded and the short ballot for responsible executives with large powers substituted in its place. (4) These few high executive officials should have the power to make all appointments in the civil service, including the appointment of judges.

A number of chapters are devoted to historical developments. The book presents in a readable style old facts under new tendencies.

C. L. K.

GIDDINGS, FRANKLIN H.; HART, ALBERT BUSHNELL; JOHNSON, EMORY R.; SELIGMAN, EDWIN R. A.; WILSON, GEORGE S.; WILLOUGHBY, W. W.; GOODRICH, CASPAR F. *Problems of Readjustment after the War.* Pp. vi, 185. Price, \$1.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1915.

HENRY, H. M. *The Police Control of the Slave in South Carolina.* Pp. x, 216. Price, \$1.00. Emory, Va.: Published by the Author.

Dr. Henry has examined with manifest care and industry the statutes, newspapers and many manuscript county records of anti-bellum South Carolina, and has constructed a readable and interesting account of the system of slavery as it existed in that state. A liberal use is made of the method of incorporating frequent and extensive quotations from the sources into the body of his text. South Carolina seems to have evolved no emancipation sentiment and her treatment of the slave appears harsher than that of the states of the Upper South. Though a logical connection between the nineteen chapters, or topics, under which the subject is considered is not always clear, the work is a welcome addition to the contributions of General McCready on the early history of the institution of slavery in South Carolina.

J. C. B.

MAITLAND, FREDERIC W. and MONTAGUE, FRANCIS C. *A Sketch of English Legal History.* Pp. x, 229. Price, \$1.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915.

This is a reprint of the well-known articles contributed to *Traill's Social England* by Maitland and Montague on the history of the law. Their publication in the present form renders them more accessible and should ensure for them a wider circle of readers. The editor, James F. Colby, who is Parker Professor of Law in Dartmouth College, has added a few brief extracts from other sources, such as Pollock and Maitland's *History of English Law* and Jenks' *Short History of*